



KARO ECHO Newsletter

KARO ECHO

Serving the communities
of El Cerrito and
Kensington, California

Web: www.karoecho.net

Facebook:
[KARO ECHO facebook](#)

Email: info@karoecho.net

Important Frequencies

KE Primary: 146.415 MHz
Weekly Net, Thurs. 1900

KE Secondary: 146.475 MHz

4Cs Repeater: 145.110 MHz
(TX down 600 with PL 82.5)

Monthly Meetings

In-person meetings

2nd Monday of each month
7:00 pm

Arlington Park Clubhouse,
1120 Arlington Blvd,
El Cerrito, CA

The next meetings are:

Mar. 9th, 2020

Apr. 13th, 2020

Meeting minutes are on
the website in the past
events page.

What's New

KARO ECHO Meeting Mar 9th, 1900 in El Cerrito

The KARO ECHO meeting starts at 1900 at the Arlington Park Clubhouse, 1120 Arlington Blvd, El Cerrito, CA. The presentation portion of this meeting will be planning and instruction for the March 14th SET as well Jay KJ6WSS presenting some updates on deployable antenna kits and field testing.

Feb. 29th FRS/GMRS class was a success

Thanks to David KJ6AAT and Diane KK6RED for teaching a great FRS/GMRS class. This well attended class (over 20 people) included a hands-on radio training exercise with a number of newly trained CERT graduates. Also thanks to Rob K6RJM and Hal KK6NDF who helped coach students in the radio exercise.

Coming KARO ECHO Events

Spring KARO ECHO Simulated Emergency Test (SET)

Mar. 14, 2020, Sat. 9am-12pm radio exercise

followed by debrief at Castro Clubhouse, 1420 Norvell St.

Practical radio communication exercise spanning El Cerrito and Kensington with mobile (neighborhood hub) operators and communication to the city EOC.

Net Control Instruction

Apr. 4, 2020, Sat. 1-3pm, El Cerrito Community Center - Garden Room
7007 Moeser Ln

Learn the skills to be an effective net control operator during an emergency communications net.

Important! - Membership Renewals are Due

It is never too late to renew your KARO ECHO membership dues, if you haven't already done so. You can pay Treasurer Larry KK6GIO at the Monday meeting or mail to P.O. Box 2025, El Cerrito, CA, 94530-3651. \$30 for individual membership, or \$40 for family membership. Thanks.

LOCAL NETS**KARO ECHO NET**

146.415 MHz Simplex

Thursday eve, immediately after the West Contra Costa RACES Net, but never before 1900 hours local time.

West Contra County ACS/RACES Net

145.110 MHz repeater

(TX down 600 with PL 82.5)

Thursday: 1845 local time

Contra Costa County HF EmComm/RACES Net

3893 KHz

Thursday: 1835 local time

American Red Cross of the Bay Area (ARCBA)

WW6BAY Repeater

443.975 MHz

TX =5 MHz, PL 100 Hz

Wednesday: 2000 local time

BOARD OFFICERS

President: Hal KK6NDF

Treasurer: Larry KK6GIO

Secretary: Natalie KM6UCF

Emergency Coordinator:
(also newsletter and
net coordinator)

Howdy KE6BEE

Webmaestro: Rob K6RJM

What's New *(continued)***KARO ECHO SET, March 14th**

Saturday March 14th, 0900-1200, is the date/time for the next KARO ECHO simulated Emergency Test (SET). Please plan on participating if you are available. Ideally, operating in the field with battery powered equipment will give experience with disaster response operation. Please contact Howdy ke6bee@arrl.net for further coordination participating in the SET.

We are asking each participant to write two messages to pass during the exercise (examples will be provided and don't worry about the content too much, it is mostly about learning the logistics of message handling). A time and destination will likely be assigned to distribute the flow of messages, but anyone is encouraged to generate additional traffic as they wish.

KARO ECHO uses the [modified ICS-213 form which can be downloaded from the website](#). Thanks to Edward KM6UBY who turned this form into a fillable PDF to make it easier to generate messages.

Jay KJ6WSS has a number of portable extendible antenna kits (PEAK) that can be used in the field to get good coverage with any radio. One goal of this SET is to practice changes of operation during the net, including hand-offs between multiple net control operators and redeployment of some operators from one location to another.

Antenna Patch Boxes for El Cerrito Clubhouses

The two roof-top antenna patch boxes on the Harding and Tassajara clubhouses are available for KARO ECHO operators to use. The boxes have combination lock access, contact Howdy ke6bee@arrl.net. Patch cords that can adapt to common hand held radios are stored in the boxes, but it is also a good idea for each operator to have a stock of appropriate adapters and cables to fit this, and other, external antenna connection applications.

Welcome New Hams

New El Cerrito licenses issued: none in past month

New Kensington licenses issued: KN6IDP

Activities

Weekly Net Control Rotation

Thanks go out to the volunteer stations who have been taking turns as Net Control Stations (NCS) each Thursday. This rotation has been working very well and everyone has been doing a great job. The regular NCS roster has 9 operators. There are opportunities for others to fill in when a regular station has a scheduling conflict and there is always room to add more stations to the rotation. [Download the new Net Script for NCS operators.](#)

Below are the current scheduled dates for each operator. The [KARO ECHO google calendar](#) also has these assignments and can be found at the bottom of the events page. Add to your electronic calendar By pressing the "+GoogleCalendar" button in the lower right.

Callsign	Name	Assigned Dates (skipped: 7/4/2019, 11/28/2019)						
KE6BEE	Howdy Goudey	6/20/2019	8/29/2019	10/31/2019	1/9/2020	3/12/2020	5/14/2020	7/16/2020
KK6NDF	Hal Graboske	6/27/2019	9/5/2019	11/7/2019	1/16/2020	3/19/2020	5/21/2020	7/23/2020
KM6HBO	Jamuel Starkey	7/11/2019	9/12/2019	11/14/2019	1/23/2020	3/26/2020	5/28/2020	7/30/2020
KK6GIO	Larry Vanselow	7/18/2019	9/19/2019	11/21/2019	1/30/2020	4/2/2020	6/4/2020	8/6/2020
K6RJM	Rob McNicholas	7/25/2019	9/26/2019	12/5/2019	2/6/2020	4/9/2020	6/11/2020	8/13/2020
KE6HCE	Armando Picciotto	8/1/2019	10/3/2019	12/12/2019	2/13/2020	4/16/2020	6/18/2020	8/20/2020
NI6A	Don Simon	8/8/2019	10/10/2019	12/19/2019	2/20/2020	4/23/2020	6/25/2020	8/27/2020
KM6TCB	Dave Roth	8/15/2019	10/17/2019	12/26/2019	2/27/2020	4/30/2020	7/2/2020	9/3/2020
KK6ZPM	Karen Fenton-Leong	8/22/2019	10/24/2019	1/2/2020	3/5/2020	5/7/2020	7/9/2020	9/10/2020

Net control is a skill that many operators should have and regularly practice. Please contact Howdy ke6bee@arrl.net if you are interested in taking a net control assignment.

Thursday Net Training Exercises

Following the net check-ins every Thursday at 1900, KARO ECHO usually runs a training exercise to learn and practice skills that are important for successful disaster communications. [A list of training exercises](#) is posted and maintained on the training page of the website.

In 2018 we had 47 unique callsigns check-in which has **grown to 74 unique callsigns in 2019**. 2020 is off to a great start with a weekly average of 17 check-in up from the earlier averages of 14-15 check-ins per week. It is great to see that more operators are active. Thanks for your participation. Keep it up!

About KARO ECHO

KARO ECHO is the name of the Kensington Amateur Radio Operators and the El Cerrito Ham Operators mutual benefit association, an all-volunteer non-profit group of amateur radio operators providing auxiliary communications for the cities of Kensington and El Cerrito in the event of a disaster. KARO ECHO works with CERT (Community Emergency Response Teams) in Kensington and El Cerrito, but is not an official part of the CERT program.

Monthly in-person meetings of KARO ECHO are on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Arlington Park Clubhouse, 1120 Arlington Blvd, El Cerrito, CA. The next meetings are:

- ♦ Mar. 9th, 2020
- ♦ Apr. 13th, 2020

Yearly membership dues are \$30/year for individuals, \$40/year for a family membership. Payments can be given to the Treasurer at monthly meetings or mailed to the address below. Participation is welcome independent of paid membership, but only licensed amateur radio operators who are dues paying KARO ECHO members will be allowed to vote on KARO ECHO business. Dues cover our 510c3 registration, post office box, web page, station operating manuals and more. Your input on useful expenditures to aid emergency communications is welcome.

Mail to: KARO ECHO, PO Box 2025, 6324 Fairmont Ave, El Cerrito, CA 94530-3651

Please see our website for more information: www.karoecho.net

You can contact the KARO ECHO board by email: info@karoecho.net

KARO ECHO Facebook

The [KARO ECHO Group on Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1451216838315743/) has a lot of good information, more than is contained on our website. There is a whole wide world of emergency communications information at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1451216838315743/> Check it out and be inspired of what we can do to help disaster victims in our community.

Weekly Training Net

The Karo-Echo Weekly Training Net meets every Thursday evening immediately after the West Co Co County RACES/ACS Net; but not before 1900 on 146.415 MHz Simplex. Details at <https://www.karoecho.net/events>

KARO-ECHO Frequencies

The KARO ECHO primary frequency is 146.415 MHz simplex. Our secondary frequency is 146.475 MHz simplex, creating a 60 KHz spread between operating frequencies that will reduced adjacent frequency de-sensing.

Outreach, Education and Licensing

EMCOMM related videos

See the CERT SET Youtube video link

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=66DdgGLIn4c&list=PLROOaUIKdrEgSID1bQJZojW3PzfURoEY-&index=144&t=0s>

Post Camp Fire GMRS organization

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=220&v=aZiSC4sgKYw&feature=emb_logo

ELMERING

Elmering/Mentoring is available by request. Email info@karoecho.net

In the meanwhile, please check out the plethora of disaster radio communications topics at <https://www.karoecho.net> website and/or request specific literature to be created.

KAROECHO.Net Website

Especially, check out the EVENTS Page (<https://www.karoecho.net/events>) and the WORKSTREAMS drop-down menu which will lead one to an extensive training page that provides online learning at your own pace. Everything from the very beginning to advanced EmComm operations is detailed. The RESOURCE page has many excellent outside links.

- ♦ If you are on Facebook, contribute to the KARO ECHO Facebook Group Page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1451216838315743/>
- ♦ If you haven't already filled out the **JOIN** form please do. Find it as a drop down menu under "Get Involved" See <https://www.karoecho.net/join>
- ♦ A follow-through novice primer has been put on the website for new hams once they have bought their radio and want to learn more. See: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/10J-569BRrx5adhA-hJGPeNITU6B9Yi6z/view>
- ♦ Also a new Dual-Band antenna primer for new hams who want to graduate from the rubber-duddy world is at https://drive.google.com/file/d/1u_ozABBRYDJDACFJRTV_rxWF1WjCgW_I/view
- ♦ Note that the Tram 1480 gain dual band antenna is currently still available for \$51 (no tax and free shipping) on ebay or from Home Depot. That and an inexpensive speaker tripod is a dynamite combination for portable operation. This antenna is equivalent to the Diamond X-200a antenna which sells at HRO for \$125.00 before taxes and shipping.
- ♦ For newbies, please visit <https://www.karoecho.net/workstreams/training> and read the study materials. It is all there except for hands-on experience. Ask questions!
- ♦ Following the Thursday evening net check-in, there is often a training session and/or discussion.
- ♦ All recent KARO ECHO **Minutes will be found at our Past Events page** We are now including past Executive Board Minutes as well. [Newsletters are on the Documents Page.](#)

If you desire to be removed from this email list, please email info@karoecho.net